



Avian Influenza A (H7N9) in China

Since March 2013, China has been reporting an influenza cluster caused by a strain never before seen in humans, Influenza A H7N9. This strain of influenza normally infects birds. So far, most of the human cases in China have presented with severe respiratory symptoms requiring hospitalization. Information on this situation is rapidly emerging.

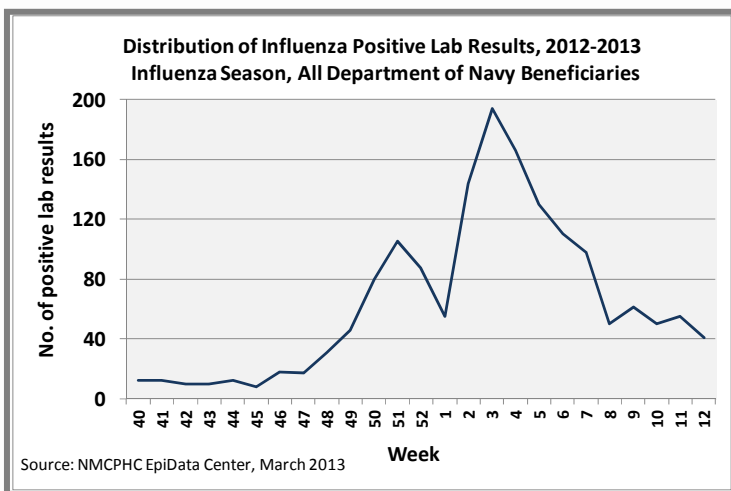
This emerging public health concern presents an opportunity to ensure our routine surveillance activities are prepared. Syndromic surveillance, disease reporting, and communication with the local/regional PHEO and NEPMUs are key cornerstones to NMCPHC's influenza preparedness strategy and force readiness.

Facts

As of 15 April:

- China reported 60 confirmed cases, including 13 deaths
- There is no evidence of ongoing person-to-person transmission
- China, along with the international public health community, has enhanced both human and animal surveillance to actively identify and isolate additional cases and reservoirs

NMCPHC tracking of influenza in the Navy shows we are coming to the end of our regular influenza season. No H7N9 cases were identified in the DON this season.



Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center Guidance

Human influenza caused by a new subtype must be reported to the World Health Organization under the International Health Regulations. Your PHEO and NEPMU should be contacted immediately if you suspect a case.

Navy and Marine Corps units providing patient care should report suspected Influenza A (H7N9) cases via the Disease Reporting System, internet ([DRSi](#)).

Syndromic surveillance activities, including ESSENCE monitoring in the MTF as well as Disease and Injury reporting by the fleet, play an integral part in NMCPHC's influenza surveillance and preparedness strategy.

The NEPMUs are standing by to assist with investigation support, risk assessment and obtaining definitive laboratory testing.

Resources

NMCPHC's EpiData Center produces a routine Influenza report providing Navy and Marine Corps wide influenza disease, vaccination and treatment trends. This report can be found by clicking [here](#).

Information on disease reporting in DRSi can be obtained by clicking [here](#) or by contacting the Navy DRSi helpdesk at NDRS@nmcphc.med.navy.mil, COMM: 757-953-0954, DSN: 377-0954.

Navy Fleet's Disease and Injury data reporting to NMCPHC must follow the processes described [here](#).

For updated information on the H7N9 disease cluster, visit: <http://www.who.int/influenza/en/>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention H7N9 resources, including a health advisory and travel advice can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

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